

While we experienced the harshness of winter weather this week – snow, ice, wind, and bitter cold – I was glad to be home and pleased to have had some very constructive interactions with Nebraskans new to the First Congressional District. It's clear that most Nebraskans, like many Americans, are interested and concerned about the direction of their federal government – and hopeful for a brighter future for our nation.

On Wednesday, we traveled through blowing snow on ice-packed roads to get to Columbus, where we dialogued with constituents at a public "open house" meeting at the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce. On Thursday, the single-digit temperatures didn't stop a large group of new constituents in Bellevue from coming to our open house at Bellevue University for a discussion of the challenges facing our country.



### *Columbus Open House*

Both Columbus and Bellevue, along with all of Platte County and Polk County, are new parts of the "new" First District. In 2011, the Governor and the Nebraska Legislature approved congressional redistricting, a redrawing of the boundaries of our state's three congressional districts based on the results of the 2010 census. The changes became official with the new

term of Congress beginning in January.



### *Bellevue Open House*

As you can see on the map, the First District, reflecting a larger eastward shift in population growth across the state, became smaller geographically and denser in population. Counties in parts of northeast and southeast Nebraska became part of the Third District (which now runs from Scottsbluff to Falls City), western Sarpy County moved from the First District to the Omaha-based Second District, and eastern Sarpy County including Bellevue, as well as Platte and Polk Counties, joined the First District.

